

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (Previously presented) A production process for an alkylene oxide addition product, which comprises the step of carrying out an addition reaction of an alkylene oxide to a hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound in order to obtain the alkylene oxide addition product;

with the production process further comprising: an initial step of causing the alkylene oxide to add by an addition reaction to the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound in an amount of not larger than 20 mols on average of the alkylene oxide per 1 mol of the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound to thereby obtain an alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound has a water content of not more than 6,000 ppm; and a molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step of causing the alkylene oxide to further add by an addition reaction to the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product as obtained in the initial step; wherein a part of the entirety of the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product as obtained in the initial step is used in the molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step, and where the amount of the alkylene oxide used in the molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step is not larger than 20 mols on average per 1 mol of the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) A production process for an alkylene oxide addition product according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a saturated monohydric alcohol or monohydric phenol having 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

4. (Previously presented) A production process for a (meth)acrylate ester, which comprises the step of carrying out an esterification reaction between (meth)acrylic acid and an alkylene oxide addition product from a hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound or a transesterification reaction between the alkylene oxide addition product and an alkyl ester of (meth)acrylic acid, thereby obtaining the (meth)acrylate ester;

wherein the alkylene oxide addition product from the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a product obtained by a process including: an initial step of causing the alkylene oxide to add by an addition reaction to the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound in an amount of not larger than 20 mols on average of the alkylene oxide per 1 mol of the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound to thereby obtain an alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product, wherein the hydroxyl-group containing saturated compound has a water content of not more than 6,000 ppm; and a molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step of causing the alkylene oxide to further add by an addition reaction to the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product as obtained in the initial step; wherein a part of the entirety of the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product as obtained in the initial step is used in the molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step, and where the amount of the alkylene oxide used in the molar-degree of polyaddition-adjusting step is not larger than 20 mols on average per 1 mol of the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) A production process for a (meth)acrylate ester according to claim 4, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a saturated monohydric alcohol or monohydric phenol having 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

7. (Previously presented) A production process for a (meth)acrylic copolymer, which comprises the step of carrying out a polymerization reaction of a monomer component including a (meth)acrylate ester to thereby obtain the (meth)acrylic copolymer;

wherein:

the (meth)acrylate ester is a product obtained by a process including the step of carrying out an esterification reaction between (meth)acrylic acid and an alkylene oxide addition product from a hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound or a transesterification reaction between the alkylene oxide addition product and an alkyl ester of (meth)acrylic acid;

wherein the alkylene oxide addition product from the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a product obtained by a process including: an initial step of causing the alkylene oxide to add by an addition reaction to the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound in an amount of not larger than 20 mols on average of the alkylene oxide per 1 mol of the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound to thereby obtain an alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound has a water content of not more than 6,000 ppm; and a molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step of causing the alkylene oxide to further add by an addition reaction to the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product as obtained in the initial step; wherein a part of the entirety of the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product as obtained in the initial step is used in the molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step to obtain the alkylene oxide addition product, and where only the resulting alkylene oxide addition product obtained in the molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step is used in the esterification reaction or transesterification reaction and where the amount of the alkylene oxide used in the molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step is not larger than 20 mols on average per 1 mol of the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A production process for a (meth)acrylic copolymer according to claim 7, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a saturated monohydric alcohol or monohydric phenol having 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

10. (Currently amended) An admixture for cement, wherein the admixture comprises ~~comprising~~ a (meth)acrylic copolymer obtained according to the process of claim 7.

11. (New) A production process for an alkylene oxide addition product according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a saturated monohydric alcohol having an alkyl group.

12. (New) A production process for an alkylene oxide addition product according to claim 11, wherein the saturated monohydric alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, and butanol.

13. (New) A production process for a (meth)acrylate ester according to claim 4, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a saturated monohydric alcohol having an alkyl group.

14. (New) A production process for a (meth)acrylate ester according to claim 13, wherein the saturated monohydric alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, and butanol.

15. (New) A production process for a (meth)acrylic copolymer according to claim 7, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a saturated monohydric alcohol having an alkyl group.

16. (New) A production process for a (meth)acrylic copolymer according to claim 15, wherein the saturated monohydric alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, and butanol.